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TESTIMONY FOR THE TRANSPORTATION AND PLANNING COMMITTEE HEARING

February 25, 2009 10:00 a.m., Council Chamber

RE: Bill 4 Relating to the Use of Electronic Devices While Operating  
Motor Vehicles

February 24, 2009

Honolulu City Council Transportation and Planning Committee

Chair Okino, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, Committee Members:

My name is George Kahanu, Jr and I am presenting testimony on behalf of the tour transportation and student transportation divisions of Robert's Hawaii.

We strongly oppose Bill 4 which prohibits the use of mobile electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle.

Our business relies and functions due to our communication / dispatch system. Currently we have approximately 650 Nextel Units that are used for our communications state wide. Our operations utilizes either Nextel or radio systems depending on geographical coverage, ability, and cost. To inhibit our ability to communicate with our vehicles would seriously cripple our ability to operate.

In relation to Tourism: In the present hard economic times - servicing the limited visitors to Hawaii, is not only in our company's best interests but should be the interest of the State as well, and proper communication is an integral part of servicing visitors.

In relation to student transportation - with the limited window of drive-time that we have to deliver students, it is imperative to have communications to ensure the timely and safe delivery of Hawaii's school children.

In the same way that the federal government, military, and law enforcement depend on communication - we in the transportation industry reflect many of the same needs for communication on the road.

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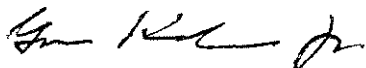
COUNCIL

We therefore oppose Bill 4.

Thank you for allowing us to present this testimony. Please call me at 539-9458 if you have any questions on the above.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT'S HAWAII

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "George Kahanu, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

GEORGE KAHANU, JR.  
Project Manager